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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/927,712	08/10/2001	Takahiro Fujita	16869S-031400US	5769

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EXAMINER

MOFIZ, APU M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PLC

Office Action Summary	Applicant No.	Applicant(s)
	09/927,712	FUJITA ET AL.
	Examiner Apu M Mofiz	Art Unit 2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

DIANE D. AMIRZAI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2,4-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Peters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,373 and Peters hereinafter).

As to claims 1,5 and 10, Peters teaches a computer system comprising: at least one server appliance (i.e. the application that accesses the storage unit/units to deliver/receive data and processes data) for processing data (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12); at least one disk apparatus for storing said data (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12); and means for changing said server appliance for processing the data in such a manner that access means employed in another server appliance, which is different from said server appliance for processing said data, can access said disk apparatus (i.e. in the case of an application failure/or a new application being added to the system, other applications can access the storage units) (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12).

As to claims 2 and 6, Peters teaches that the data is partitioned to be stored in multiple number of disk apparatuses (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12); and said access means of said server appliance accesses said disk apparatuses storing the partitioned data, whereby loads of said disk apparatuses are distributed (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12).

As to claims 4 and 9, Peters teaches that when said data is partitioned to be stored in multiple number of disk apparatuses, data copy means of said disk apparatus is used (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12).

As to claim 7, Peters teaches that the partitioned data is further partitioned; said further-partitioned data (i.e. the data is divided into segments) are stored in multiple number of disk apparatuses (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12); and said access means of said server appliance accesses the multiple number of disk apparatuses storing the further-partitioned data, whereby loads of said disk apparatuses are distributed (Fig.1; col 2, lines 8-67; col 5, lines 30-67; col 6, lines 1-67; col 7, lines 1-67; col 8, lines 1-12).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,373 and Peters hereinafter) in view of Tawil et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,747 and Tawil hereinafter).

As to claims 3 and 8, Tawil teaches a port of said disk apparatus for storing the data and a port of said server appliance for processing said data are changed to distribute loads of said ports, said ports being used to transfer data between said disk apparatus and said server appliance (Abstract; col 2, lines 1-67; col 3, lines 15-20; col 4, lines 42-67; col 5, lines 1-67; col 6, lines 27-67; col 7, lines 1-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Peters with the teachings of Tawil to include a port of said disk apparatus for storing the data and a port of said server appliance for processing said data are changed to distribute loads of said ports, said ports being used to transfer data between said disk apparatus and said server appliance with the motivation to provide a standardized host (i.e. server) failover method that is not specific to the vendor of the controllers or the host (Tawil; col 3, lines 16-20).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (703) 605-4240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached at (703) 3053830. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Apu M. Mofiz
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2175

DIANE D. MIZRAHI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

October 27, 2003